MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: (*a*) Assistant Excise Commissioner Mr. T. V. Ramakrishna Aiyar.

(*b*) and (*c*) No such report has been received by Government.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI: With reference to the part (*b*), may I know whether the Government have received any communication at all, or not, from the Excise Commissioner?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: No communication has been received by the Government on the subject referred to in that part.

**Sale of toddy in the Arukutty Circle.**

187. MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state the system now in force in the Arukutty Circle in regard to the sale of toddy?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: The taluk vend rent system prevails in the Arukutty Circle.

**Contract for the sale of toddy in the Arukutty Circle.**

188. MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) who the contractor for the sale of toddy in the Arukutty Circle is and how long he has been the contractor there; and

(*b*) whether the contract was put to public auction biennially before it was given to that contractor, and, if not, why?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: (*a*) Mr. V. Balaguruswami Nadar has been the contractor since February 1921 (Kumbham 1096).

(*b*) The contract was not put up to auction, but was settled by negotiation, as auction is unsuited to the system of farming the manufacture and vend of toddy over large areas.

**Irregularities in the Arukutty Circle.**

189. MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI: (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have received any report from the late Excise Commissioner Mr. N. Raman Pillai, stating that the Excise Officers in the Arukutty Circle were receiving a monthly subscription of Re. 1—as. 8 from every tapper in the circle in return for a free license to sell toddy and make toddy arrack in his house, that, to avoid the independent jaggery arrack shop-keepers' complaints, they were forcing every tapper to buy a bottle of arrack from the arrack shop-keepers and that this system of issuing a bottle of arrack to a tapper was something like issuing free licenses to conduct malpractices?

(*b*) Who were the officers thus reported against?

(*c*) Have Government censured them for their malpractices?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Mr. T. V. Ramakrishna Aiyar and some of the Inspectors working under him.

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[Mr. R. Krishna Pillai.]

(*c*) Mr. Ramakrishna Aiyar was censured.

**Oppression of tappers in the Arukutty Circle.**

190. MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI: (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have received any report in 1096 from the District Superintendent of Police, Mr. K. Padmanabhan Tampi, about the illegal exactions from and the oppression of tappers in the Arukutty Circle by the excise officers and the toddy contractor's agents?

(*b*) Have any enquiries been made into the allegations contained in this report?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: (*a*) & (*b*) The member is referred to the answer furnished to question No. 8 asked by Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 28th July, 1921.

**Extension of the Independent Shop System.**

191. MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI: (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they instructed the Excise Commissioner in 1095 that the taluk vend system that is now prevalent in the Arukutty Circle in respect of the sale of toddy should be abolished and that the independent shop system should be introduced in respect of the same from the beginning of 1098? If so, has this instruction been carried out? If not, why?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to say whether they intend to introduce the independent system in respect of the sale of toddy also in all the vend areas of the State at an early date?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: (*a*) The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative and to the second part in the negative. The low rates of tree tax still prevailing in the adjoining taluks of the Cochin State precluded the possibility of the introduction of the new system at the time and consequently the vend rent system had to be continued for 1098-99.

(*b*) The matter will receive attention at the proper time.

**Rented Government Buildings in Trivandrum.**

192. MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to place on the table a list of the public buildings in the town of Trivandrum let out by them, stating the estimated value of each building and site, and the annual rent and the cost of maintenance of each building?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI: A list* of buildings occupied by the officers of Government in the town of Trivandrum with the particulars available is laid on the table.

* *Vide* Appendix II—pages 670 to 673.

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